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To: Mr. Hurwithh

From: Albert H. Haynes ^{PHH}

Subj: Cuban statements on Soviet military aid

Attached are excerpts from statements and speeches by Cubans which referred to the military buildup in Cuba. It was compiled by reviewing the daily FBIS publications from June to the present. Note that public statements by regime leaders did not commence until after the joint Soviet-Cuban communique was announced in Moscow on September 2. After the TASS statement of September 11 which lent Soviet support to the regime, praise and statements became more effusive. In fact, it was this declaration, more than the military aid per se, which kicked off the bravado noticeable in most of the subsequent statements.

INR, RAR, P, DE ^{PHH} art, dfh

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Kuchlian commentary CMQTV 23 August 1962 (FBIS 24 Aug 62) :

They (the ~~US~~ "worms") are playing the same old routine again~~ly~~ and again because they have another aggression ready; another direct aggression. Well, one thing is true. We have weapons and equipment to await the invasion. They are better weapons and equipment than in April 1961 (Bay of Pigs).

Kuchlian commentary CMQ TV 9 August 1962 (FBIS 10 Aug 62)

(Reference refugee reports on arrival of Soviet troops)

Well, now the war in Salvador (Luz?) yesterday gave the spectacular news that 5,000 Soviet soliders had arrived in the five Soviet fishing trawlers and later when the reporters began to look for him, he disappeared because the lie was so big he did not know how to tell it. This caused the White House, State Dept, and MacNamara Defense Department spokesmen to deny the reports and issued a communique which said that they had not evidence that Russian soldiers were in Cuba.

Sept 4 Wanguemert commentary on QMQ

...there is no doubt that the defense preparations already made by Cuba and the further preparations that will be made on the basis of the aid requested by our government -- a request that has been taken into account by the Soviet government -- will suffice to make an attack on Cuba so costly in lives as to discourage our possible aggressors.... Nevertheless, we must not forget that... our security depends first and foremost on ourselves...on our willingness to train ourselves and to be better prepared to use the excellent arms available to us....

Sept 2 Text of Sov-Cuban communique at conclusion of Guevara's stay in Moscow

....In view of these threats, the Cuban Government asked the Soviet Government to help it by delivering armaments and sending technical specialists to train Cuban servicemen. The Soviet Government attentively ~~listened~~ considered this request of the Cuban Government, and agreement was reached on this question...

Sept 9 AFP dispatch reporting remarks made to him by Guevara at Brazilian Emb

Guevara said the military aid recently granted Cuba marks an historic event. He also feels that the USSR now has more power than the United States. The joint communique of Sep 2 marks the moment the East-West power relations were reversed, he declared adding that in his opinion the scales are dipping on the Soviet side. The US cannot do anything but yield.

Sept 8 Dorticós to the CTC-R

....Have we improved our military defense? Well, even if they do not like it, we have improved it. We have the right to defend ourselves. We do not harbor any aggressive intent, and we have improved our military defense in order to defend ourselves. Are they perchance afraid that our weapons are a potential for aggression? They are not afraid that our weapons are an aggression potential. What frightens them is something else... it is that it becomes more difficult for them to carry out their purpose of destroying our revolution....

Sept 12 Carlos Rafael Rodriguez to brigadistas

....now there is no question of fatherland or death; now it means, with Soviet aid, a secure homeland for our people, sure death for those who try to invade our country.

Sept 13 Raul Castro to officers school at Matanzas

....
We see how, despite the fact that there are instances in which the newly acquired technology is ahead of us in some fields, we quickly catch up, our learning is rapidly brought, if not ahead, at least abreast of the modern military technology we have received.

✓ Sept 30 Declaration by Cuban Council of Ministers

....How can the United States justify its deeds, its threats, and its policy before the eyes of the world? It would likewise be absurd to threaten to launch a direct armed attack if Cuba were to ~~three~~ strengthen itself militarily to the point which the United States has taken the liberty to determine. We have not the slightest intention of giving accounts or of consulting the illustrious members of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States with respect to the weapons we consider ~~to~~ necessary to acquire and the measures to take to fully defend our country....

If the US did not harbor aggressive intentions against our fatherland it would not be interested in the quantity, quality, or types of our weapons....

✓ Sept 29 Fidel Castro to the CDR's

....It is logical to expect that those who are thinking about attacking a country do not wish the intended victim to arm itself....

Furthermore do they think our country should be attacked for that reason -- because we arm ourselves to protect our own security?

Aside from the fact that the most elemental right granted to any country is the right to adopt all measures necessary to preserve its integrity, who are the imperialists to say whether we have or have not the right to arm ourselves?

....They are even frightened by fishing vessels. ...

What must our position be? ... Raise our guard...Arm ourselves more... Take all the measures necessary to stop the imperialists, to contain the imperialist attack....In threatening us, ~~more~~ you only make us more alert and make us take more measures. When you threaten us, what you do is justify us and make us right.

✓ Oct 10 Castro welcoming Dorticos back from UN

....Do you know what they say -- and what was later affirmed by the US delegation -- that the arms we are bringing here are to defend ourselves from the people....That is to say we do not arm ourselves because of the danger of Yankee aggressions? that the arms we have acquired and the measures we have taken -- and we have taken some measures, some very good measures for such (applause) -- and it has the imperialists very worried...

We have many weapons, many and powerful weapons....one day we had seven weapons.

How different it is (from Playa Giron) that we have taken the steps we have. It is for that that we have received the arms we have received and the technicians we have received.

In those times they could have attempted to invade...but those times have passed. Today they will not be able to do that with impunity... They could begin it but they would not be able to ~~finish it~~ end it....

Our revolution...has won that fight (defender of humanity)...Our people won for themselves that support of the forces which defend peace; that support we receive from the socialist camp; that special support which we receive from the Soviet Union; that support we will not renounce; because that firm support is today a curb on the imperialists....

If they become frightened they have reason to be, but to be frightened by a fishing port is laughable...

....Why are these people here today, this huge crowd...They came to support the measures taken by the revolutionary government. They came to hail the support of the Soviet Union. They came to say yes - that they accept the weapons sent us by the Soviet Union. That is what the people have come here to say; to express their satisfaction because the security of the fatherland has been increased....